

May 14, 2013

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on May 14, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Kimmel-Dagostino, G. Davis, Kraemer, Robelotto, and Virobik

Absent: Commissioner Craft and Chairperson K. Davis

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved to approve the excused absence of Chairperson K. Davis; motion was seconded by Commissioner Virobik. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioner Craft and Chairperson K. Davis)

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Kraemer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

Tomorrow is often the busiest day of the week.
Spanish Proverb

Be nice to people on the way up.
They're often the same people you meet on the way down.
Jimmy Durante 1892-1980

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Robelotto moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of May 14, 2013. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioner Craft and Chairperson K. Davis)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kraemer requested a correction on page 2, under Senior Citizens Concerns, in the second paragraph, to read, "Commissioner Kraemer noted that there were three budget workshops scheduled for..."

MOTION: Commissioner Robelotto moved and Commissioner G. Davis seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of April 9, 2013, as amended. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. (Absent Commissioner Craft and Chairperson K. Davis)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Gail Standley, Civic Affairs Chairperson for New Horizons

Kay Ujimori, Librarian from El Retiro Library

Former Commissioner Griffith, LACCOA

Dr. Jennifer Stahl, DPT

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that Council Member Rhilinger had announced her retirement from the Council and that Council Member Numark had announced his candidacy for a seat on the El Camino College District Board of Trustees. She added that Council Members Sutherland and Furey had announced their candidacies for mayor.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the official name for the historic bridge in Torrance was the Pacific Electric Railway – El Prado Bridge.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that it was important to report any problems with street lights in Torrance and stated that there was a form on the City's website that could be used to report problems or one could call 800-611-1911.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that at the City Council meeting on May 14, there would be an Armed Forces Day proclamation and a budget discussion, as well as the Older Americans Recognition.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that there had been changes to next year's budget and that some programs, such as the Madrona Marsh and the Torrance Art Museum had been moved to the general fund and out of the enterprise fund. She noted that the three major funding sources for the City were taxes on sales, property and utility users.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that it appeared that the new formula developed for the tour excursion fees was appropriate and that it was going to be possible to subsidize the funding for the excursions through the operating budget, which would eliminate the need for the program to be considered as part of the Budget Hearings. She thanked everyone for their phenomenal support throughout the long and sometimes difficult process.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that cost of classes would be examined as part of the budget process, to determine if there sufficient funds to allow the fees to be lowered in an attempt to increase attendance.

There was a discussion of the joint use contract for the pool between the City and Torrance Unified School District.

Vice Chair Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the Madrona Marsh had received a \$25,000 grant from the Kaiser Foundation.

B. Housing

Commissioner Virobik reported that developers could receive tax credits when building affordable housing, that would allow the developer to subsidize the rents, similar to section 8 housing subsidies. She noted that the complex in Carson, on Carson and Avalon, had rents that were subsidized by tax credits.

Vice Chair Kimmel-Dagostino added that the property that was being developed by the Meta Housing Corporation on Cabrillo Avenue would also have subsidized rents.

There was a discussion on how to start a program in Torrance similar to the Village concept in Pasadena or Westchester.

Commissioner Virobik reported that Senior Housing Connections, sponsored by Affordable Living for the Aging, offered a list of all the housing opportunities, including shared

housing, in Los Angeles County on their website at <http://alaseniorhousing.org> or by calling 877-428-8844.

There was a discussion on the success of programs that had seniors interacting with animals or children.

Commissioner Robelotto noted that it might be possible to join with home owners' associations or councils in Torrance in order to advertise at their meetings or through their association newsletters to determine if there were people who were in need of or interested in services.

C. Health

Former Commissioner Griffith reported that Heather Reedhead, M.D. had received Public Health grants to increase the outreach of information to senior centers on the treatment and prevention of asthma, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes. She noted that the Asian Pacific Liver Center offered free screening and treatment for liver conditions. She added that there was now an A1C test for diabetes which did not require fasting. She reported that the historic general hospital at LAC-USC hospital would become a wellness center which would offer office space to providers of a wide range of health services.

D. Transportation

Vice Chair Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the Los Angeles Sheriff's department had increased their security patrols of the metro rail lines, especially at the intersection of the Blue to Green Line to improve the safety of the stations, reduce crime and ensure that fares were being paid.

Commissioner G. Davis noted that the volunteers from the Transit department were interested in speaking at a meeting of the Commission.

Commissioner Kraemer added that the City was still working on bids for the new transit center.

Vice Chair Kimmel-Dagostino stated that Transit Administration Manager Mills had reported that the Torrance Transit Department had received two federal capital grants in the amount of \$8,376,627.00 to be used to purchase 9 new CNG buses later this year and modernize the transit fleet.

E. Community Programs

Commissioner G. Davis reported that she enjoyed working for and attending the "Beats the Odds" dinner and the Senior Prom.

Commissioners G. Davis and Robelotto expressed their interest to Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand in volunteering to be a part of the selection committee for next year's Youth Council.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand thanked those that had attended the Senior Fair and noted that attendance was down from last year. She noted that the Aging Expo would not be on the same day as the Senior Fair next year, which should boost attendance.

There was a discussion on methods to develop the resource information and increase the number of exhibitors at the Senior Fair, in order to improve the outreach potential and increase attendance. Commissioner Robelotto stated that she would email any suggestions to Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported that the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at California State University Dominguez Hills would be conducting a five part lecture series in the

fall in Manhattan Beach, in Torrance, at the Levy School, and in Carson. She added that the membership fee was \$30. She noted that Omnimore, which held classes in Redondo Beach, was part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Gail Standley, Civic Affairs Chairperson for New Horizons, stated that she would advertise the classes at Levy School in the New Horizons' newsletter.

Former Commissioner Griffith noted that there was a theater accessibility program in New York which allowed access to the performing arts for individuals with disabilities.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported that SCROC still had not found funding and that the adult school was also struggling.

Vice Chair Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she had discussed the adult school problem during her Sacramento Leadership Torrance meeting in April.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

April 2013

Total number of documented calls: 34	Total number of callbacks: 11
Miscellaneous calls: 65	Total number of walk-ins: 21
Total number of calls received: 99	

Of the documented calls:

9% were for transportation	18% were for housing
11.7% were for legal	

Commissioner Virobik noted that the Focal Point office would install a doorbell so that a volunteer could know when someone was at the front door, as the front door was now locked for security reasons, when there was only one volunteer on site.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Robelotto reported on an article concerning the rise in the number of seniors who were going to shelters to escape elder abuse at home.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that there would be a lecture in the "*Seniors, Don't Be Scammed!*" series, entitled *5 Top Scams Targeting Seniors* on May 21 at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

Vice Chair Kimmel-Dagostino added that the lecture at the library would also include information and resources on Emergency Disaster Preparedness for seniors.

SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Commissioner Virobik stated that South Bay Senior Services provided Focal Point with names of seniors in need, so that Focal Point could outreach to the seniors by phone.

There was a discussion of ways to connect with other neighborhood groups, churches and senior services to develop plans to find and help seniors who were isolated.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand suggested that the outreach program, once a plan was formulated, might be a good subject for a joint meeting with City Council. She added that she would present the idea to the City Council when the Commission was ready.

Commissioners Robelotto and G. Davis noted that they would gather information from the Beach Cities Health District on how the District conducted their outreach programs.

OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION

Vice Chair Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the City's Older Americans Recognition presentation was this evening, May 14, and would take place in the early part of the City Council meeting.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that County's recognition ceremony was on May 29 at 10:30 a.m. She noted that Commissioners Kimmel-Dagostino, Kraemer and Chairperson K. Davis would accompany her to the event.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that Chairperson K. Davis was preparing the Annual Report and that the report would be on the agenda for the July meeting. She reminded the Commission that there was no June meeting and added that the election of officers would take place at the July meeting.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the Torrance Police Department Memorial Service in honor of Blue Ribbon week would be Wednesday, May 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the Toyota Meeting Hall, Cultural Arts Center. She added that free tickets for the Armed Forces Day concerts would also be available that day, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the box office of the James Armstrong Theater.

Vice Chair Kimmel-Dagostino and Commissioner Kraemer reminded the Commission that the Armed Forces Day parade would be on May 19, starting at 1:30 p.m.

Librarian Ujimori, from El Retiro Library, distributed event calendars and presented information on upcoming programming as well as life planning classes sponsored by H.E.L.P., and noted that there would be a summer reading program for adults. She noted that she had enjoyed participating in the Senior Fair.

Jennifer Stahl, DPT, stated that she was happy to attend the meeting to find out what was available for seniors in Torrance. She stated that she offered a free grip strength screening test and noted that grip strength was indicative of fitness and overall health. She added that she also offered in-home fitness services for seniors.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reminded the Commissioners that for those that required it, there would be a Commissioner certification training class at the George Nakano Theatre on June 4 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

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<p><i>Approved as submitted July 9, 2013 Sue Herbers, CMC City Clerk</i></p>
